

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15  
CEQ-01 MCE-00 TRSE-00 /129 W  
-----046966 171816Z /43

P 171511Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5476  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCUSAREUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOSOUTH

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, PEPR, NATO, GR, TU  
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR GREECE TO ACQUIRE TACTICAL  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: ATHENS 3171 (NOTAL)

1. OVER THE WEEKEND, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF AND PASOK LEADER  
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PAPANDREOU CONTINUED TO FIRE STATEMENTS AT EACH OTHER ABOUT  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION FOR GREECE (REFTEL).  
PAPANDREOU'S SPECIFIC CALL IS FOR A "NATIONALLY-ORIENTED"  
DEFENSE THAT, HE SAYS FOR THE FIRST TIME, "MUST AT LEAST INCLUDE  
TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS" SINCE TURKEY HAS "ALREADY STARTED  
TO MAKE PLANS TO ACQUIRE" THEM.

2. PAPANDREOU HAD FOLLOWED HIS REMARK IN AN APRIL 11 NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW -- ASSERTING THAT GREECE COULD OBTAIN NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- WITH A CHARGE IN PASOK'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (EXORMISI) THAT "TURKEY, ASSISTED BY THE U.S., IS PLANNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY WITHIN THE COMING TEN YEARS." GREECE, HE SAID, WOULD BE IN DANGER OF BECOMING A "SATELLITE" OF TURKEY IF SHE DID NOT OBTAIN HER OWN "TACTICAL DEFENSIVE" NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A "COUNTERBALANCE". IN ADDITION, HE CALLED FOR A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY INDEPENDENT OF FOREIGN CONTROL, TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A GREEK NUCLEAR REACTOR OPERATED WITHOUT FOREIGN EXPERTS OR INTERVENTION.

3. AVEROFF THEREUPON OBSERVED, IN AN APRIL 16 STATEMENT, THAT SUCH TALK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INSURES THAT GREECE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE A NUCLEAR REACTOR TO MEET THE ENERGY CRISIS COMING IN THE MID-1980'S. IN FACT, HE ARGUED, GREECE CANNOT BY HERSELF CONSTRUCT LARGE REACTORS AND THEY ARE "NOT GIVEN TO COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT USE THEM IN ORDER TO PRODUCE...RAW MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR...NUCLEAR WEAPONS." AVEROFF DID NOT ADDRESS THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH WEAPONS FOR GREECE.

4. PAPANDREOU COUNTER-ATTACKED LATER THE SAME DAY BY REITERATING HIS CALL FOR A GREEK TACTICAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY TO BLOCK "TURKISH INTRIGUES" AND TO GUARANTEE GREEK TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND REGIONAL PEACE. HE BLITHELY DIVORCED NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS FROM THE QUESTION OF WEAPONS, AND ALSO TOOK A SWIPE AT AVEROFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR ALLEGEDLY PROMOTING GREECE AS A U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPOT.  
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ATHENS03224  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780164-0413  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 ATHENS 3171  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR GREECE TO ACQUIRE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**TAGS:** MNUC, ENRG, PEPR, GR, TU, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014